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# Wethersfield LIFE

**December 2016**

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## QUOTE OF NOTE:

“The stresses that break us down are physical, emotional and chemical.”

- Dr. Guy Carbone

See story page 20

## ON THE COVER

Laurie Foster, a teacher of the hard of hearing, watches as 5-year-old K'Marie Owens responds to sounds during a testing session at the CREC Soundbridge Program.

Photo by Lisa Brisson

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# Success by *design*

**Taylor Spellman has  
new TV show on Bravo**

**by Mara Dresner**  
*Staff Writer*

**W**atching Taylor Spellman on the new Bravo show, “Yours, Mine or Ours,” one might think she simply was fortunate and stumbled into the high-profile gig. To do so would be a disservice to Spellman, whose drive was clear even as she was growing up in Wethersfield.

“She always worked hard all her life. She always had a great sense of humor even as a little kid. She made lists of everything her whole life. She was the most organized person,” Mary Ellen Reilly of Dance 10 Studios recalled.

“When she was little, she made lists of what she was going to get done and how she was going to do it. I always knew she was destined for greatness. She was an extremely talented girl. She could have been a professional dancer in a heartbeat.”

In addition to taking classes at Dance 10 Studios, Spellman also attended the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts.

“It was a really amazing opportunity for me. That kind of cracked open my world. Growing up, college wasn’t a definite thing. It wasn’t, of course you’re going to go to college. It was, if you get a ton of scholarship money and figure it out. They gave me the one need-based scholarship they had. I was so lucky they did that for me,” Spellman said.

“That led to me being able to go to New York City. I went to study with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. That was an interesting experience. I think 2,500 people audition and they take 25,” she added.

“Here in Wethersfield, I was really good. I got to New York and I was not that good at all. Come to find out, I like to be in a super-competitive environment. That’s what makes me feel good. I don’t like to be a big fish in a small pond. That was really the experience of a lifetime. It also helped me know I like other things as well.”

The experience with Alvin Ailey helped her to realize that her future was not in dance.

“To be a real dancer, you have to be willing not to eat and drink certain things. You also are only going to make so much money,” she said.

**Wethersfield native Taylor Spellman has achieved success in the design world and has a new show on Bravo. She created the art behind her, which she sells and donates a portion of the profits to charity.**



While she wasn't certain where the road would lead, there might have been a clue from her school days.

"I remember in sixth grade at Charles Wright Elementary School, I brought in all these clippings of home magazines. The teacher asked, 'What are you doing?' I said, 'I just like to carry these around,'" Spellman remembered of the pages she'd tear out from publications, such as *Better Homes & Gardens*.

Spellman, whose parents John and Sharon Spellman still live in town, graduated from Fordham University at Lincoln Center. She did an internship with Christie's Auction House.

"I was still kind of into the arts, so I thought maybe special events, and I dabbled in that, and I worked at Gucci for a little while," she said.

Then she began to notice something.

"All these men who make really fantastic money, who went to great schools, who are going to the best restaurants, then I'd see their apartments and they're the worst things I'd ever seen. They'd have a huge oversized leather couch, a television and nothing else. There could be tumbleweeds going through the apartment," she said.

"I'd be drinking wine out of a

Solo cup. I'd wonder, 'Is this chronic because men aren't interested or because there's no resource?' When you see an exposure in the market like that is it because no one has thought of it or because it's a bad idea?"

At 23, she founded August Black, an interior design firm that catered to men.

"I thought the business model had legs. I was young enough and dumb enough to have no fear. My father was like, 'What are you doing? You can't quit a job before you have a job.' And I said, 'I do have a job. I'm starting my own company.'

"He thought I was crazy. That was a normal parental reaction of being deeply concerned for my well being," she said.

The company did well and evolved as women and families also wanted projects done, ranging from bachelorette pads to family homes. About three years ago, she was approached with an offer to buy half the company and she sold the remaining share to the same person about a year ago, next launching Taylor Spellman New York.

"I thought when I was 23, I couldn't put my name in front of something. Now it's practically 10 years later and I can hang a different shingle," she said.

Part of her success comes from looking at the individuality of each client.

"I feel like people talk about one's home as though it's a luxury good and I'd like to change that narrative. I don't think a home is a luxury, it's the most essential piece of the life puzzle. It make you feel safe, it builds you up, it protects your family, it shields from what can be a brutal world," Spellman said.

"I think having your home lift you up when you walk in and give you the love and protection you need before you enter back into the world the next morning is essential to your mental health," she added.

"My design philosophy is to make it work for you. If you love to have bright colors, do it. If you love minimal, cold, marble chic, if that makes you feel organized in your space, do it.

"I just advise my clients and I work to help them find their voice so they know what feels like a beautiful hug when they walk in the space. And that's not something to be underestimated."

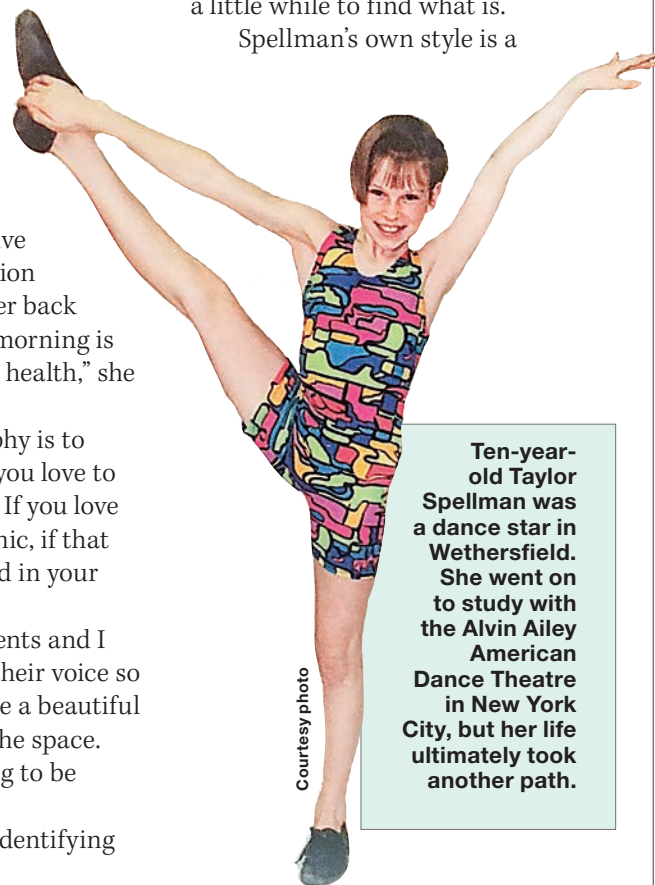
She often starts by identifying

what clients don't like, which she says is often easier for people to identify.

"Who cares about trends? I'm never informed by that," she said.

"How do you live? What do you love? How do you and your family interact? I really listen and pull out what's going to work. Everyone knows what they love. It might take a little while to find what is."

Spellman's own style is a



Ten-year-old Taylor Spellman was a dance star in Wethersfield. She went on to study with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre in New York City, but her life ultimately took another path.

Courtesy photo

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bit eclectic.

"I love a mix, a mix of old and new, a mix of modern and traditional, a mix of bold and some calm notes. Everything is always an experience of 50-50. I think that's how I live my life.

"On one hand, I have this sort of fancy life. On the other hand, I'm from Wethersfield. I come home and sit with no makeup on and laugh with my childhood friend," she said.

Her clients include real estate notables such as Bravo's "Million Dollar Listing" Ryan Serhant. An average day for Spellman involves upwards of \$30 million worth of real estate under her direction.

"Taylor's perfectly tuned sensibilities are well suited to satisfying the discerning eye of Tribeca buyers while maintaining projects budget and schedule. It's rare to find an individual who can deliver cutting-edge design while understand-

## "I would like to take over the lifestyle landscape and put a fresh voice on it."

— Taylor Spellman

ing a developer's need to promote their properties," Thomas Elliott, director of sales and marketing for the Magnum Real Estate Group in New York City, said.

"Taylor has a get-it-done mentality that has been a welcome change from more idiosyncratic designers. Plus, she's a hoot."

Spellman has a staff of six with an office on 45th and 9th near Times Square. Her days are busy.

"There's no shut-off time. I work all day, every day. I work weekends. There's no such thing as 9 to 5. They'll hire me to come in and design an apartment that's \$9 million. Every minute the apartment's not ready to be shown is money fly-

ing out the window," she said.

"I'm working with some of the top developers in New York City real estate. The developers are building from the ground up. I love getting involved at that level. What is the ethos of this building? Who are we marketing to?

"The old staging way was to show up with a cream couch and beige throw and say it's staged. I've come in and been extremely aggressive. It grabs the buyer's attention and garners a quicker sale."

That doesn't mean that everyone loves all her choices. She remembers one developer who came in and said he didn't like what she had done.

"This guy is a big deal so I was

shaking in my boots," she recalled.

She walked him through all of her choices.

"I talked him off the ledge and two days later someone said, 'I want to buy this apartment with all of the furniture exactly as it is,' she said.

Spellman sometimes uses her own original artwork in her designs. Fifty percent of the proceeds of that art is donated to Special Olympics.

In addition to running her company, she is excited about her new show, "Yours, Mine or Ours." The program, which also features real estate agent Reza Farahan, helps couples living under separate roofs figure out which residence they should call home, whether that's transforming an existing space or moving to a new one.

"I would love to say they [Bravo] just called me one day. It was maybe seven years of working on getting a show together. There was a lot of

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rejection and a lot of people saying you're not going to make it. Because of my dance training, I was used to that kind of rejection and pressure," she said.

"I got approached by a production company about seven years ago on CBS. They said, 'Hey, would you be interested in having a TV show?' I said, 'Sure, why not?' We worked on a bunch of different concepts.

"You go to the network and pitch ideas, and right to your face, they say no. It was really intense. Once I learned the rules of game, I learned how to break them. I'd said I rather have no minutes of fame than 15 minutes of fame," Spellman said.

She also knew some of what she didn't want.

"I was adamant that I don't want my personal life in the show. [I was asked] 'do you scream and yell? Are you mean to employees? How do you show your power?' It's an interesting question. There's a misconception that you can't be a powerful woman and at the same time be kind," she said.

"I garner respect by being smart, by having talent that backs up my work and by being kind. I run a very serious, very real business in New York. I'm not going to get people to do what I need to do by being a jerk. I'm doing the show on my terms and that always takes longer," she said.

Spellman came close to having a TV show a few years ago.

"We filmed a pilot about four years ago with Bravo. At the final hour, they pulled the pilot, which

was devastating. I put a lot of time and effort in the pilot.

"Bravo said, 'but wait, we're going to work with you. We just need to find you the right project.' All those years ago, I was crying myself to sleep because I wasn't really believing them," she said.

Spellman isn't resting on her laurels.

"Everything I've been working on for the past 10 years has just happened, so my natural instinct is to be highly unimpressed with myself and think what's next. I would like to take over the lifestyle landscape and put a fresh voice on it," she mused.

She's thinking Martha Stewart, but in "a more realistic and ultimately more empowering way."

She sometimes cannot believe the path her life has taken.

"Just last week, I walked in there [her office] and they were all just busily at work and I literally got choked up because I just can't believe it. I get choked up right now. There were times I was eating Ramen for two weeks straight. At one point, I only had \$18 and that was going to be my ticket to come home to Wethersfield," she said.

"I had to walk downtown to go to Grand Central, 50 blocks, to come home. For me, those memories are not that far away and I don't think they ever will be that far away. For all of these dreams to have actualized themselves, I feel like the luckiest person alive." **WL**

Learn more at [taylorspellman.com](http://taylorspellman.com).

**Taylor Spellman stars in a new Bravo show, "Yours, Mine or Ours."**



Photo by Fran Parente

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*Entertainment Weekly*

<b>The Groove Section</b> Friday, November 18 <sup>TH</sup> , 7-10 <sup>PM</sup>	<b>On Call</b> Saturday, December 3 <sup>RD</sup> , 7-10 <sup>PM</sup>
<b>Boogie Boys</b> Saturday, November 19 <sup>TH</sup> , 7-10 <sup>PM</sup>	<b>Rhythm &amp; Motion</b> Thursday, December 8 <sup>TH</sup> , 6:30-9:30 <sup>PM</sup>
<b>Mixed Bag Trio</b> Friday, November 25 <sup>TH</sup> , 7-10 <sup>PM</sup>	<b>John Brighanti Trio</b> Friday, December 9 <sup>TH</sup> , 7-10 <sup>PM</sup>
<b>Lynn and Vinny</b> Saturday, November 26 <sup>TH</sup> , 7-10 <sup>PM</sup>	<b>We 3</b> Saturday, December 10 <sup>TH</sup> , 7-10 <sup>PM</sup>
<b>Take Two</b> Thursday, December 1 <sup>ST</sup> , 6:30-9:30 <sup>PM</sup>	<b>Lynn and Vinny</b> Thursday, December 15 <sup>TH</sup> , 6:30-9:30 <sup>PM</sup>
<b>Sebbi Giocco Quartet Featuring Don Trenner</b> Friday, December 2 <sup>ND</sup> , 7-10 <sup>PM</sup>	<b>The Groove Section</b> Friday, December 16 <sup>TH</sup> , 7-10 <sup>PM</sup>
<b>Boogie Boys</b> Saturday, December 17 <sup>TH</sup> , 7-10 <sup>PM</sup>	

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Photos by Mark Jahne

Martha Mayer, Sara Trueax and Jim Woodworth study the woman's copious notes about the history of the park and the mills located there and in nearby Griswoldville.

## Delving deeper

Trio looks into the history and ecology of Mill Woods park

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

**M**ill Woods Park is a place that attracts numerous people every day for a wide variety of recreational activities. But it also carries with it a piece of local history, as well as a place in the town's overall natural environment.

Three residents have taken a special interest in the park and recently contributed to a 2-mile nature walk held to share what they have learned. It also served as an opportunity to remove litter.

The Nov. 5 walk was sponsored by the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center, Great Meadows Conservation Trust and Wethersfield High School Environmental Club. A week prior to the event, walk leaders took Wethersfield LIFE on a preview of the walk.

Martha Mayer is a Griswold-

ville resident who has spent many years researching and chronicling the history of that section of town, including the park. Jim Woodworth is the stewardship chairman of the Great Meadows Conservation Trust and WHS senior Sara Trueax is vice president of the school's Environmental Club.

"It's a historic and educational tour and nature walk," Woodworth said.

Trueax said she was not all that familiar with the park and decided to study it to gain a better understanding of its place in the local ecology. She also wants to raise awareness of its natural beauty and the value of maintaining it in a clean and litter-free manner.

"It's an important part of Wethersfield," she said. "There's garbage and pollution and I want to help clean it up."

The pollution she referred to is, in many cases, caused by runoff of



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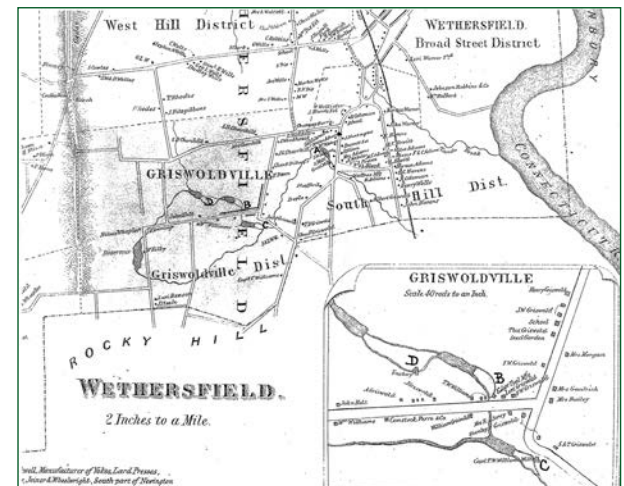
fertilizer and other lawn care products from nearby homes. Trueax would also like to make the recycling bins in the park more user-friendly by posting on them the specific items that can be recycled so people put the proper things in them.

Mayer has amassed a wealth of carefully hand-written notes about the park and its environs. She brought them along.

"I did some research on it a while ago. I used to do some walking tours in Griswoldville," she said.

She pointed out a bowl-shaped area near the skate park that she is confident was once the site of a mill pond. A present-day stream runs nearby, connecting the southernmost pond at the park (not the swimming area) to Bell Pond.

**This dam controls water flowing from the natural pond in the park (located immediately to the south of the public swimming area) as it heads toward Bell Pond and, eventually, the Connecticut River.**



**This map shows the locations of four mills that long ago operated in Griswoldville. Look closely for the letters A through D. It was originally printed in the Atlas of Hartford City and County, 1869, Baker & Tilden, Hartford.**

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Stylists, from left, Carina Zenick, Deana Shaw and Laura Rhoades work together out of the new Style Company hair salon.

## Hair and only hair

The Style Company strives to make everyone's locks look special

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

Carina Zenick always wanted to open her own hair salon. Now that dream has been fulfilled.

Town and chamber of commerce officials joined Zenick and her two business partners to cut the ribbon and officially open The Style Company at 500-A Silas Deane Highway, around the back of the building.

She is joined by longtime friends Laura Rhoades and Deana Shaw, who are renting chair space from her, a common practice in hair salons. All three previously worked at Blades in Old Wethersfield.

Their new space features a redesigned entry that Peter Gillespie, the town's director of planning and economic development, said was created under the town's façade improvement program. He was on hand to welcome the women and celebrate the opening of another new business in town, albeit a relatively small one.

"Every new business helps," Gillespie said.

"For me, it was something that just made sense," Zenick said. "I wanted something that was convenient for the clients and I wanted it to be convenient to Old Wethersfield. Our clients know how much we care."

She is a lifelong resident and has children who attend Webb School. She has 22 years of experience styling

hair. Rhoades and Shaw have 21 and 25 years, respectively.

All of their services are exclusive to hair. They do not offer spa services such as manicures, pedicures and such, but will offer referrals to interested customers.

Zenick has known her new landlord for many years and that also helped her settle on the location off the Silas Deane.

"The space just felt right. It needed to be something that we could manage and we could renovate without it costing too much," she said. "I call it a beauty room because what I know is hair."

The three women agreed that they are good friends and enjoy working together.

"We have a history with our clients. We stand behind our work. I can't believe I get paid for doing this," Zenick said.

Hair services are offered for both men and women. The Style Company features Redken as its primary coloring product but other brands are available and special order are welcome. The salon is open Tuesday through Saturday or other times by special appointment. **WL**

Carina Zenick and The Style Company can be reached at 860-212-5325. Deana Shaw is doing business as Divine Image. She can be reached at 860-398-0932. Laura Rhoades is doing business as Studio 513. She can be reached at 860-416-4791.



# Dealing with violence

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

Police chief discusses police shootings, race relations and more

**T**he world of law enforcement has experienced a dramatic change in recent months following the premeditated killing of police officers in Dallas, Texas, and Baton Rouge, La.

It is also reeling from increased attention brought to cases involving the deaths of black men in altercations with white cops.

LIFE asked Police Chief James Cetran to share his thoughts on these topics and to discuss how much impact all of this has had on the men and women who patrol the streets of Wethersfield every day and night.

"The crime rate is going up: property crimes, car break-ins, items [stolen] from cars, the cars themselves," he said in a September interview. "Hartford in the last four weeks has recovered 99 stolen cars, a lot from the suburbs. I'm afraid what's happening in crime is going to go up exponentially."

He spoke in particular about the Folly Brook Boulevard condominiums at the north end of town.

Criminals have targeted this complex and police have added extra patrols to combat the problem.

In one case, an officer approached a suspicious car that entered the parking lot after 2 a.m. to question the occupants.

"When he got into the back parking lot, they spotted him and drove straight at him," Cetran said.

The officer was forced to dive for safety. The suspects escaped.

The next night, an officer in a cruiser spotted another suspicious car late at night entering the parking lot. He attempted to block off the vehicle with his own so that he could question the occupants.

The suspects drove forward aggressively, crashing into the police car, then fled. Police gave chase until safety protocols required them to stop.

"They ended the pursuit when it got up to 100 miles per hour on Campfield Avenue," Cetran said.

This is a level of aggression against police that was not previously seen and he regards it as a direct connection to the highly publicized incidents that have occurred around

**"Perception is more in vogue today than reality."**

**– Police Chief James Cetran**

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the country in recent months.

Now, more than ever, police lives are at risk.

"It's a dangerous job, it truly is," he said.

Cetran spoke of a Danbury officer who was not engaged in any specific police activity. A man attacked and beat the officer, inflicting serious injuries.

"That was totally unprovoked," he said.

The chief was asked if the national attention paid to police shootings of black men, and the ambush-style gunning down of police officers, has had any impact on his officers and how they go about their daily tasks.

"Yes, it has made a big difference," he said.

Cetran said it used to be that perhaps one in 20 people stopped for motor vehicle violations became verbally aggressive with the police. Now it's four out of 20.

"It gets tiresome [listening to that] after a while," he said.

The result is that officers are

making fewer stops for motor vehicle infractions and violations, the very thing that often leads to drunken driving arrests, drug arrests, recovery of stolen property and capture of wanted felons, among other things.

Less police interaction with motorists also means more crashes and streets that are less safe, he added. Cetran considers it a dangerous trend.

"We have less motor vehicle stops from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015," he said. "The more you don't enforce the laws, the more the laws get broken."

Officers are subject to ongoing training and are taught to treat all citizens fairly and equally, he said. No decent cop wants to be considered a racist.

"We get fair and impartial police training and all kinds of other training," Cetran said.

Racial sensitivity training is department policy and Wethersfield officers receive more than the minimum required of them, he added.

Cetran understands that some cops

may have biases and the goal is to identify those biases and correct them.

Yet an increasing number of people, particularly blacks and Latinos, see prejudice in how police interact with them versus white people. The chief insisted that racial bias is not allowed within his department and that any officer who behaves in a racist manner will face discipline, including possible dismissal from the force.

Cetran accused certain politicians of fanning the flames and promoting an "us against them" attitude between citizens and police officers for their own personal gain.

"The rhetoric is horrific against police officers. Listen to what they're saying and what they're chanting," he said. "A lot of people don't understand what we do and how we do it."

The chief is pleased that, with a few exceptions, Wethersfield residents are behind their men and women in blue.

"This community here in Wethersfield is very supportive

of us," Cetran said.

Another issue Cetran has is with an annual state report on racial profiling by police.

Data is collected that is then analyzed at Central Connecticut State University to show the cities and towns where racial profiling may be occurring.

His allegation is that the data is flawed because of one significant factor. Racial profiling, as defined by state law, means police stopping cars for no other reason than the race, color, age, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation of the driver.

It's the "no other reason" part he cites in making his argument.

Cetran said if the officer stopped the car because of a motor vehicle infraction or equipment violation, that represents legal cause to pull that driver over.

The violation, not the person's race or other previously listed defining factors, is the reason for that action.

"Perception is more in vogue today than reality," he said.



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The race of every stop becomes prominent data in the report that is compiled for the state Office of Policy and Management. Police are required to give every driver they stop a complaint form that can be used if the driver feels that he or she was the victim of profiling.

Cetran wants to hear from anyone who thinks they have been the victim or profiling or improper treatment at the hands of his officers. He will explain their actions, dispel any myths and investigate if needed.

With all of this going on, he is increasingly worried about the safety of his personnel. He pointed to an increase in the number of suspects who resist arrest.

"I'm concerned all the time. We've got people fighting us more," he said.

These kinds of struggles can escalate into physical confrontations and lead to serious consequences for all involved. In severe instances, they can result in a shooting.

Another change on the street is

that police are under constant scrutiny by the public. Even the most routine calls often find one or more people standing nearby recording the proceedings on a smart phone.

"The newer officers are used to it. The older officers don't like it," Cetran said.

But the public has the legal right to do this as long as it does not interfere with the police activity being recorded. This video can be helpful when investigating a crime or police brutality complaint.

Local police cruisers carry dashboard video systems to record police-public interactions. The cars have been equipped with this technology since 2009 and Cetran said it provides an accurate recording of what occurred.

He spoke of two incidents in town where police shot a suspect. In each case, the shootings were affirmed as appropriate action within the law after a full investigation. The one that was recorded on a cruiser camera was easier to resolve

and went more smoothly because of that video evidence.

The problem in high-profile cases is that only snippets are shown on TV and not the entire video. These brief clips can influence people's perception of the event, he said.

Cetran is opposed to adding body cameras to his officer's equipment because the current rules and regulations are too restrictive. He also wonders about drafting protocols for when these cameras should be turned off and back on.

Various laws protect certain things from public disclosure such as juvenile crime and discussions of a person's health. Officers should not record these portions of conversations but police risk being accused of turning the camera off to allegedly protect themselves from liability.

There is also the issue of downloading and storing multiple years of daily video and then retrieving it if and when a public request or legal subpoena is filed.

Cetran is a strong proponent of



Police Chief James Cetran

community policing and getting cops to interact with the people they serve. Local programs include National Night Out, Citizens Police Academy, DARE program for youth and resource officers in the middle and high schools. **WL**

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# Fifty years of service

CREC Soundbridge celebrates half a century of helping hearing-impaired children

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

**“W**e help children hear.” Those four words represent the basic premise behind all that is done at Soundbridge on Progress Drive. The school for children with hearing impairments is operated by the Capitol Region Education Council, but it is a specialty school, not a regional magnet like many of the better-known CREC schools in Greater Hartford.

Elizabeth Cole is in her 20th year as its director.

“I came with this building in 1996,” she said.

Cole spoke about the students

in her program. She pointed out that most children who have hearing difficulties are not 100 percent deaf and can achieve the ability to hear, to varying degrees, through modern technology.

That opens up a whole world of education and language to them. This is where Soundbridge comes in.

“The vast majority of them

have hearing loss. The exception to that are the preschool children,” she said of her students.

The preschool program at Soundbridge includes a mix of children, some of whom have hearing deficits and some of whom do not. Many of those who attend the preschool program live in Wethersfield, Newington and Rocky Hill.

In some cases, these students

come from homes where English is not the primary language.

Translators are available to bridge that gap. Soundbridge is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Its literature notes that 95 percent of babies with hearing loss are born to parents who use spoken language to communicate and they want the same for their children. This requires early identification of the hearing loss and the application of appropriate technology to stimulate and develop the auditory and linguistic centers in the brain.

“Our staff is what makes this place exceptional,” Cole said.

That staff of approximately 80

**“It’s a new world.  
Improvements in technology have  
revolutionized the field.”**

– Elizabeth Cole

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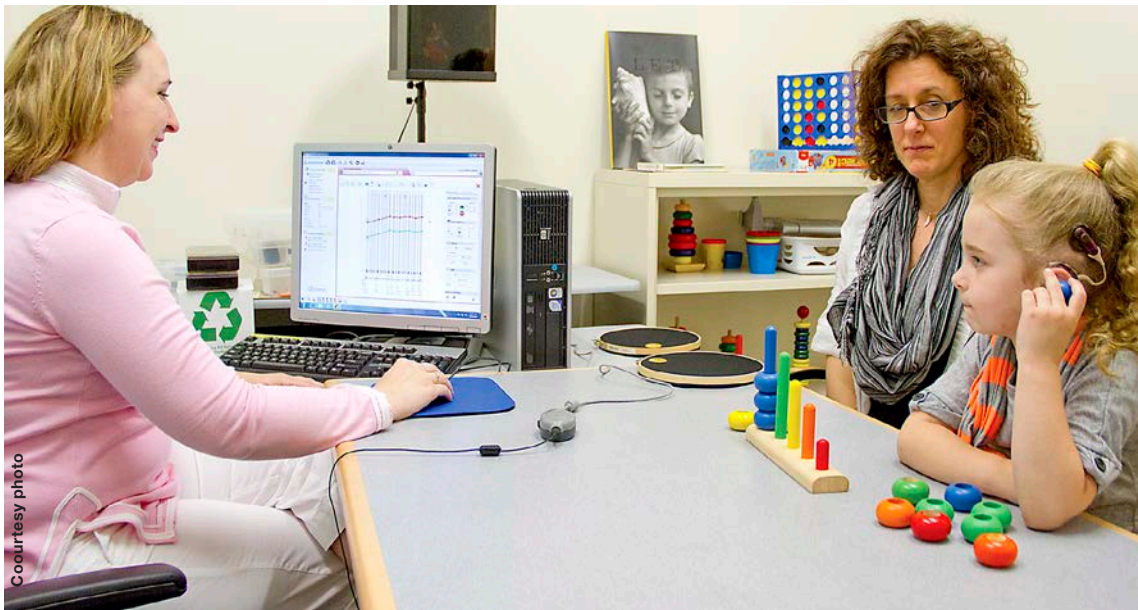


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Hearing aids and cochlear implants are used to improve a

child's hearing and then the staff teaches them how to talk and listen. This, and other technology, has greatly improved over the years.

"It's a new world. Improvements in technology have revolutionized the field," Cole said. Those improvements allow her school to offer its

students "a rich, auditory, linguistic environment. We are adamant about the kids having good auditory access."

FM equipment continues to be used but new technological advances also provide for HD technology.

One of the other great advances

in the field is screening infants for hearing deficits shortly after birth. A common diagnostic test can be administered in their first three months of life, and if hearing deficiencies are detected, the process of dealing with those deficiencies can begin right away.



**Teacher Krystal Garcia works with a student at Soundbridge. Note the technology on the teacher to amplify her voice and the hearing aid with a small receiver attached worn by the child.**

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Photo by Lisa Brisson

The school's team provides services to children from infancy through college. They prescribe, program and fit hearing aids and FM systems for those ages birth to 3. A total of 97 children and families in that program were served by the

school this past year.

Soundbridge works in partnership with the state's Birth to Three program led by the state Department of Developmental Services.

"It's a great system in that kids can get services quickly," Cole said.

The staff also evaluates and monitors each child's audiological status and needs and provides information and guidance to parents. Recommendations can be made to school districts regarding the selection and use of FM equipment, which is monitored quarterly.

Every student gets an annual assessment of his or her auditory processing abilities. Equipment is monitored quarterly and anything that breaks is quickly repaired or replaced.

Other pediatric educational audiology services include: pre and post cochlear implant evaluations, cochlear implant mapping, post-secondary audio technology services, diagnosis of auditory processing disorders and discounts for school districts on personal FM and "soundfield" equipment.

Soundfield is the word used to define amplification systems that allow all students to hear well wherever they are seated in a classroom and whichever direction the teacher faces. All Soundbridge services for school-age students are integrated

with public school curricula to assure that these children have the opportunity to learn and grow at the same pace as their fully hearing peers.

More than 90 percent of the students served by Soundbridge across the state attend local schools; they represent 84 public school districts, 15 regional districts, state vocational-technical schools and nine colleges and universities, stretching to all four corners of the state.

The other 10 percent come to the Progress Drive facility each day for an intensive full-day program. These services are available until they reach the age of 21.

Parents do not have to pay for Soundbridge's services. That cost is the responsibility of the public school district in the town where the child resides.

"We go to them with teachers or audiologists, whatever the students need," Cole said.

Her school served 970 students during the 2015-2016 academic year. It started in 1966 with only five students.

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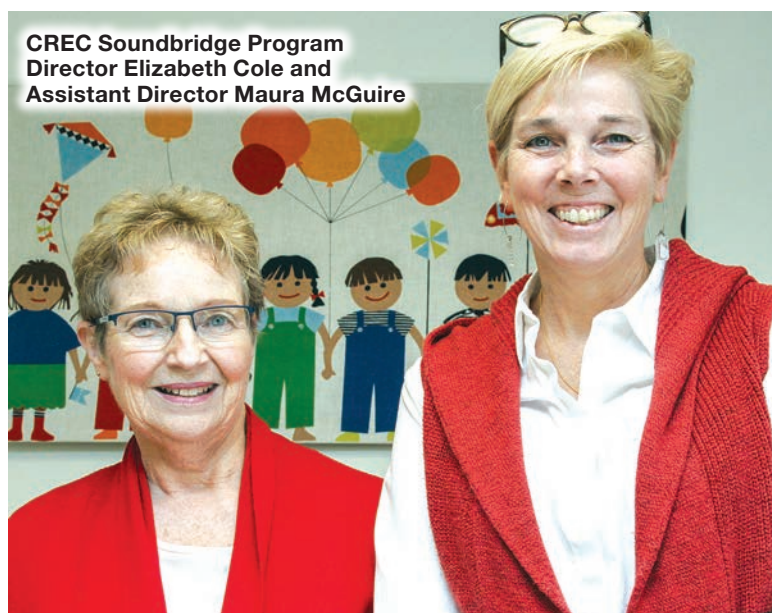
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**CREC Soundbridge Program  
Director Elizabeth Cole and  
Assistant Director Maura McGuire**



Photos by Lisa Brisson

Another offering is Soundbridge Academy, a secondary level program that prepares students with hearing loss for college and careers. It provides intensive support to improve their spoken language abilities and, in turn, their academic achievement.

Eligible students have some level of hearing loss and have spoken language abilities that are behind their peers. They are more than one year behind grade-level peers academically in language-based subjects and/or have a need to form connections with peers who have hearing loss.

This academy is taught by certified teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing who specialize in developing auditory and spoken language abilities. It provides technological support, communication with general education teachers, social and emotional support, after-school activities, as well as college and career readiness resources.

The Capitol Region Education Council's Hearing Impaired Program (HIP) started in 1966 with students

who were born with severe hearing impairments as a result of a Rubella epidemic. It was first housed at the Gengras Center for Exceptional Children at what is now the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford.

The Manchester Board of Education sponsored and administered the original classes. When the first class was ready to attend kindergarten, the children moved to Charter Oak Elementary School in West Hartford.

Classes were later housed in Bloomfield and Farmington as well. The program came fully under CREC direction in 1970 and all classes were moved to Wethersfield. The first HIP class graduated from Wethersfield High School in 1984.

Today's program serves more than 200 children across the state, half of whom are in mainstream classes in their home school districts. Approximately 60 percent of those being educated at the Wethersfield location will eventually be taught back in their

local communities.

Some of them move on to one of the 17 regional magnet schools operated by CREC, Cole said.

More than 95 percent of the students served by Soundbridge this past academic year were fully integrated in their home schools. Staff came to them with audio-logical and/or instructional support services.

The magnet schools may get most of the public's attention these days, but CREC's Deborah Richards is quick to point out that the organization got its start by providing services in the early days of mandated special education.

She is the agency's director of student services. Soundbridge is just one example of a CREC school that serves a particular need; others work with children on the autism spectrum or who have emotional issues, to cite just two examples.

Richards said the success of Soundbridge lies to a great degree in the wisdom that established the school from its early days as an edu-

cational program with a single, targeted program to serve children with hearing impairments.

She added that the model of having both a physical presence in Wethersfield and a staff that ranges far and wide to take its services on the road has worked out well.

"I refer to our teachers at Soundbridge as road warriors because they are on the road every day," Richards said.

Those professionals help to build expertise in school districts all over the state, she added. They need to keep up with technology because it constantly changes.

Credit was also given by Richards to screening children for hearing deficits within days of their birth. The sooner a problem is detected, the sooner a Soundbridge treatment plan can be implemented.

"They get that intensive, language-rich environment so they can start kindergarten with their peers," she said. **WL**

To learn more call 860-529-4260 or see [crec.org/soundbridge](http://crec.org/soundbridge).

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# Promoting good health

Carbone Chiropractic Center marks 25 years of making people feel better

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

**D**r. Guy Carbone first opened the doors to his chiropractic medicine business a quarter of a century ago in the South End of Hartford. Now located on Wolcott Hill Road in Wethersfield, Carbone and his colleagues continue to help their patients lead healthier lives.

Carbone Chiropractic Center is now part of The Wellness Center, which also includes Southside Physical Therapy, Massage Energy and Choosing Wellness Weight Loss featuring the medically derived Ideal Protein approach. Services have expanded over the years to better meet the needs of patients.

As Carbone explained it, chiropractic is a natural form of health care that uses spinal adjustments to

correct misalignments and restore proper body function to the nervous system. This helps the body to heal in a natural manner.

He and the other three doctors of chiropractic on staff treat people of all ages. They also offer supportive services including: diet and lifestyle counseling, functional medicine, blood work review, clinical nutrition, holistic counseling and energy work, detoxification, custom-made orthotics and kinesio taping.

That last one is elastic, therapeutic tape used to treat orthopedic, neuromuscular, neurological and other medical conditions. In addition to the staff physical and massage therapists, other professionals available to assist include an herbalist, neurologist and nature force healing expert.

Carbone talked about how he settled upon his career choice.

"I had an injury when I was in high school playing sports and I went to a chiropractor. He saved my life," he said.

He was able to participate in sports again and decided that when he grew up he wanted to do for other athletes what that doctor had done for him. So he set about studying how to help people better understand their bodies to achieve better health.

Carbone earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Rhode Island and then graduated from the New York Chiropractic College.

"I love the art of it and I really enjoyed the science of it," he said of his studies.

Carbone started practicing his healing art in 1991. He moved the business to town 12 years ago.

"My vision was always to create a wellness center," he said. "I really enjoy this. I love coming to work. We have a lot of people who have been here for a long time."

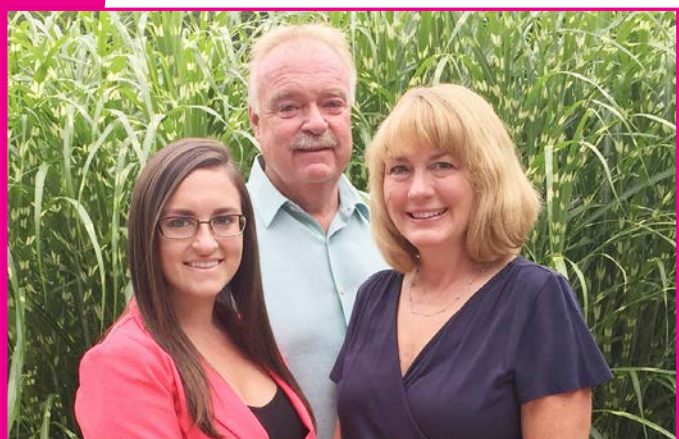
As a former athlete, he also wanted it to operate under a team concept. Staff regularly consult with one another to determine the best treatment options and outcome for each patient.

"The stresses that break us down are physical, emotional and chemical," he said.

Two of the doctors, Melissa Tulisano and Christina Ruddy, are working mothers. They specialize in treating pregnant women and children, as well as in functional medicine.

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Carbone said the body has an amazing ability to heal itself when the nervous system is operating to its full capacity. It runs through the spine and that's why spinal adjustments to maximize its function are so important.

"This is very specific to the central nervous system. Eat right, think right, move right," he said. "It's great to see change. The longterm wellness piece is the exciting piece. People want to be well. It's where you see the greatest change in people."

His practice takes a holistic approach to health and his colleagues agree with that concept.

"I got into it through my son," said Dr. Matthew Carbone, a cousin of Guy.

The former explained that his child was suffering from severe ear infections. Better nutrition, coupled with chiropractic adjustments, resolved the problem.

"That's how I got into this field," he said.

"I was playing college volleyball and blew out my knee," Ruddy said. "A friend referred me to a chiropractor who did some marvelous work."

That also proved true when she was treated for a shoulder injury.

"I never heard of chiropractic until I started working here as a receptionist," Tulisano said.

She was a patient, too, before deciding to make it her career.

"I was a pre-med major. I was on the fence and didn't know what I wanted to do," she said.

"My dad was a soccer player, a weekend war-

rior, and he was always getting injured," physical therapist George Tsakos said.

His father imbued a sense of open communication in his son. That helps him work in a team environment. All of their practices are growing and each practitioner has his or her subspecialty.

"We're always focused on why you're having

pain," Tsakos said.

"We also have the advantage of inter-referring, Matt Carbone said. "Patients feel safe and comfortable. They open up." **WL**

*The Wellness Center is located at 82-86 Wolcott Hill Road. Call 860-296-4446 or see [carbonechiropractic.com](http://carbonechiropractic.com).*



The staff at Carbone Chiropractic Center, LLC, at The Wellness Center includes, from left, Dr. Guy Carbone, DPT George Tsakos, Dr. Melissa Tulisano, Dr. Matthew Carbone and Dr. Christina Ruddy.

Photo by Mark Jaine



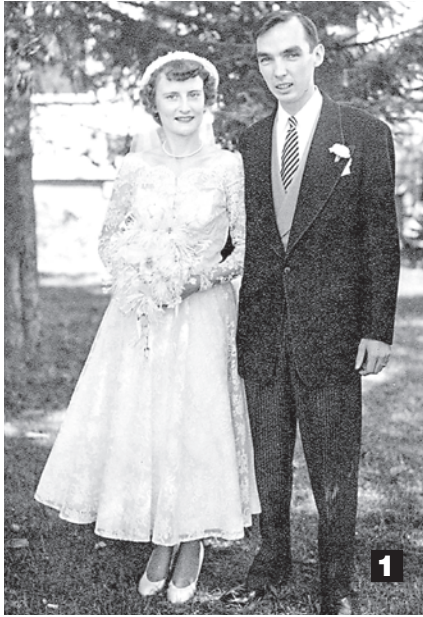
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# People notes



**1. Edward and Arlene Temple** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Oct. 6. They were married in 1951 at Our Lady of Sorrows church in Hartford and have lived in Wethersfield their entire married life. They have four children and three grandchildren.

**2.** Wethersfield High School senior **Dalis Irizarry** was selected to be part of the prestigious National Association for Music Educators (NAfME) All-National Honor Ensembles. Dalis is a participant in several music programs at the high school such as the Choralaires, drum



major for the marching band, honors band and has performed leading roles in several of the school's musicals.

**3. Richard Roberts** was elected to the Eastern States Exposition's Board of Corporators.

**4.** Former Wethersfield resident **Joseph "Jay" Arcata III**, a partner at Halloran & Sage LLP, was selected to the Connecticut Law Tribune's "New Leaders in the Law" Class of 2016. He practices primarily in the areas of litigation, insurance and cyber security.



**Andrew Michaels, 4**, will appear along with other local youth actors in the Hartford Stage's 19th production of "A Christmas Carol – A Ghost Story of Christmas." The show will run from Nov. 25 through Dec. 30.

**Jennifer Ashcraft, Danielle Cocolla, Madelyne Colon, Sarah Cusano, Deena DePaolis, Stefanie Downar, Anne Fern, Marta Godlewska, Karla Gwynn, David Huffman, Jaclyn O'Keefe, Karen Orefice, Luz Quagliaroli, Lisette Rivera, Andre Santiago, Janet Tedone, Victoria Walsh and Jonathan Gwara** were named to the dean's list at Goodwin College.

**Madelyne Colon, Sarah Cusano, Anne Fern, Karen Orefice and Andre Santiago** were named to the president's list at Goodwin College.



**Matthew Marottolo** was part of the novice Kingswood Oxford School Forensic Union team that won multiple awards at the St. Sebastian Tourney in Needham, Mass. He also participated in the International Independent Schools Public Speaking Competition in Canada.

**John Preysner** earned a B.A. degree in geographical studies, with honors, from the University of Chicago. He was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and named Outstanding Senior in Geography by the Illinois Geographical Society.

**Jacqueline Kendrick** is studying abroad at Assumption College's Rome, Italy, campus.

**Carmelo Cicero-Santalena** was named director of capital projects for Sacred Heart University. **WL**



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# LIFE

*in the classroom*

## EmersonWilliams School hosts its first career day

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

Sindy Hima and Jude Exantus donned press tags and served as reporters. They will file a story in the next PTO newsletter.



Photo by Mark Jahne

Elementary school may be a tad early for students to decide what they want to do with the rest of their lives, but it's never too early to encourage them to start considering the options.

That was the premise behind the first Career Day held Oct. 28 at Emerson-Williams School. A wide variety of professionals spent the day talking about what they do and explaining the skills and education required of their jobs.

All 410 children in the school were asked to suggest their career interests and fifth-grade teacher Joanne Charbonneau orchestrated

the event and posted it in the hallway for everyone to review. The school's leadership team decided to use that information to construct this event.

"My class collected all that information. We had tons of different careers represented," she said.

"We want to get kids to think about their lives beyond elementary school, middle school, high school, college. I just kind of ran with it," Principal Neela Thakur said. "Her class created this huge bar graph of the most popular career choices, she said of Charbonneau.

Thakur and her team decided to start small and limit participation in

the inaugural event to grades five and six. They may expand it to a lower grade or grades next year.

"We have 18 different presenters," she said, while walking down the hall. "We have two students who are acting as reporters for the day."

Sindy Hima and Jude Exantus donned press tags and wrote a story for the PTO newsletter.

"The leadership team is a group of teachers. We get together and try to do school-wide activities," Charbonneau said.

She added that the concept behind Career Day was to encourage students to start pondering their future.

"I think it's amazing. I sat in on several of the presentations," she said. "All of our presenters are related to the school in some way, shape or form."

To give the students a taste of what they will experience in middle school, they moved as a group from one classroom to another each instructional period to meet the next presenter. The presenters were allotted 15 minutes with each group.

Robert Arduini was one of three local police officers who spoke about their careers and took questions from the students. Michele Lavoie is a controller for a business, as well as a dance teacher. She explained sales



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teams, assets, overhead and other business terms in a manner the students could easily understand.

Tom Johanson talked about his life as a helicopter pilot. David Lucas showed and explained the gear he wears as a Waterbury firefighter.

One of the presenters came from within the building. Second-grade teacher Jamie Shoemaker talked about what it takes to become a professional educator.

Other participants were: Andrew Copland of ESPN, former movie set designer Jennifer Reilly,

physicist Tom Nunn, drug therapy researcher Dr. Rich Charbonneau, orchestra musician Emily Caravella, vertebrate zoologist Cheri Collins, zookeeper Olivia Caravella, Dino Federici of Sikorsky Aircraft, engineer Tony Centurelli, accounting and finance professional Connie DiGiacomo, social worker Christine Dukes, Yale researcher Rebecca Cardone and engineer James Kulpa.

Charbonneau was pleased to see so many students involve themselves in the presentations by asking thoughtful questions. **WL**



**Waterbury firefighter David Lucas explained his gear and his job.**

**Helicopter pilot Tom Johanson gave students an idea of what life is like in his world of flight.**



**Officer Robert Arduini was one of three members of the Wethersfield Police Department who came to discuss what it takes to pursue a career in law enforcement.**

**Michele Lavoie talked about what she does as a business controller in terms the students could easily understand.**



**Students got a different look at a familiar face. Teacher Jamie Shoemaker told them what it takes to become a professional educator.**



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Construction is underway on the next two phases of Seabury's expansion, including 68 new independent living residences scheduled to open in the Fall of 2017. We are now accepting applications for residence from adults 50 and over. **Learn more about how to reserve your future home at our monthly informational sessions on every 1st Thursday at 1:30pm and every 3rd Wednesday at 10:30am. Call (860) 243-6081 or (860) 243-4033 for reservations or e-mail [info@seaburylife.org](mailto:info@seaburylife.org).**

  
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# Events *spotlight*

## Wethersfield Antiques Show

Nov. 18-19

*Pitkin Community Center  
30 Greenfield St.  
860-529-7656 or*

*wethersfieldhistory.org*

The Wethersfield Historical Society presents this annual event showcasing some of the finest dealers from the Northeast in room setting booths displaying a wide range of early American and 19th century items. A gala cocktail party opens the show Friday evening from 6:30-9 p.m. Admission to the preview party is \$35 and includes an opportunity to shop the show early. The show opens to the general public on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$8. The show will again feature verbal appraisals, offered from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

## First Church Village Craft Fair

Nov. 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*117 Wells Road*

The First Church Village Social Club

presents a Christmas Fair in its clubhouse. Shoppers will find an extensive selection of home-baked goodies, original and unique Christmas ornaments, handmade knit and crocheted items, and many other products for sale. Admission is free.

## Holidays on Main

Dec. 1, 5-9 p.m.

*Main Street, center of Old Wethersfield*

*860-721-6200 or*

*wethersfieldchamber.com*

The Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce brings back this annual holiday tradition with even more attractions to enjoy. There will be horse-drawn wagon rides and food vendors along the street, Santa Claus at the nearby fire house and the traditional tree lighting at 6:15.

Activities in and around the Webb Barn include crafters, wine tasting and a beer garden. Shops will be open the length of the street between Hartford Avenue and Garden Street and Lucky Lou's patio will be available for use by patrons and non-patrons alike.



## Tour the Hurlbut-Dunham House

Dec. 1, 6-8 p.m.

*212 Main St.*

*860-529-7656 or*

*wethersfieldhistory.org*

As part of Holidays on Main, the Hurlbut-Dunham House, decorated for the holidays, and the neighboring Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, will be open for free tours. This year the house will be decorated in a 1940s "Christmas on the home front theme." The Hurlbut-Dunham House will also be open for free tours from 1-4 p.m. Dec. 3-4, Dec. 10-11 and Dec. 17-18.

## Night of Joy Christmas Concert

Dec. 9-11

*Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church*

*511 Maple St.*

*860-563-8286 or wethefc.com*

Three days of Christmas music will fill the church, performed in a variety of styles ranging from jazz to classical, pop and gospel. The concerts feature the adult and children's choir, band, soloist Jeff Coleman and the Culup Family. Concert times are 7 p.m. Friday, 4 and 7 p.m. Saturday and 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free, but tickets are required because space is limited. To help those in need this winter, monetary donations will be accepted for the church's Hands Open Wide food pantry.

## Three Centuries of Christmas

Dec. 16-17, 5-8 p.m.

*Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum  
211 Main St.*

*860-529-0612 or*

*webb-deane-stevens.org*

The annual "Three Centuries of Christmas" kicks off with the WDS Holiday Preview Party from 5-8 p.m. Dec. 9. Guests will enjoy a candlelight preview of the holiday decorations throughout the museum, stroll from house to house sampling food, wine, ale, and live holiday music, and chat with Mr. and Mrs. Silas Deane, Mrs. Claus, and guides in period dress.

Admission is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Candlelight tours, with guides in period dress, will be offered Dec. 16-17. Daylight holiday tours will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 10-30, except Sundays, when the schedule is 1-4 p.m. Admission for these tours is \$12.

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**Spook** is an affectionate black domestic shorthair cat who is approaching her fifth birthday. She enjoys a moderate level of activity and would benefit from an active environment. She is OK with children of any age and willing try her luck with other pets. Spook is strictly an indoor cat.

*Inquiries about adoption may be made at the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington. Call 860-594-4500. More information, including videos, can be found online at [cthumane.org](http://cthumane.org). Click on "Adopt" and "Newington." The Connecticut Humane Society is a private organization and has no time limits for adoption.*



Spook

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# Growing stronger



Five guest panelists spoke about the value of forming partnerships and providing community programs to families of all types. They are, from left, Joel Cruz and Brianna Archer of the Southside Family Center in Hartford and Daquan Ellison, Teresa DeVore and Sabrina Griffith, all from the RAMBUH Family Center in Hartford.

photos by Mark Jahne

## WECC annual meeting highlights the benefit of partnerships by Mark Jahne Editor

It's often easier to accomplish goals when two or more like-minded groups pool their resources and talent. That was the underlying message delivered at the annual meeting of the Wethersfield Early Childhood

Collaborative.

The Oct. 24 gathering at the Pitkin Community Center featured three out-of-town organizations that came to share their success stories and strategies. Numerous town and school administrators, elected offi-

cials, community leaders and interested parents were in attendance.

Kimberly Bobin welcomed the guests. She is the district-wide family liaison for the Wethersfield Public Schools. This year's keynote speaker was Doug Edwards of Manchester,

representing the nonprofit organization Real Dads Forever.

"We are very excited tonight to announce our partnership with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving," Bobin said in her opening remarks.

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the best bone structure and choose the ideal implant placement sites for the patient. "Through this procedure we take implant dentistry a step above," says Dr. Michalski. "We take teeth out and the same day put teeth in. We provide our patients with IV sedation and they wake up with new teeth."



As one of his advanced procedures is dental implants, Dr. Michalski is a leader in his field. He has attained Diplomate status in the International College of Oral Implantology, the highest honor in the field. He is a Misch Fellow, a graduate of numerous post doctorate training curriculums and has trained and studied with the best implant surgeons in the world.

"I am able to show people what their dental implant options are and change their lives. We use art and science to take a patient from a smile they dislike to one they love by creating their perfect smile," explains Dr. Michalski.



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Doug Edwards was the keynote speaker at the Oct. 24 annual meeting of the Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative. He represents a nonprofit organization called Real Dads Forever.

**“We have an amazing collaborative. For the first time, we will be offering parent leadership training.”**

**– Kimberly Bobin**

WECC will receive \$62,000 from the foundation. She said the funds will help the collaborative fulfill its mission of connecting local families with the resources they need to ensure that every Wethersfield child gets his or her life off to a healthy start.

“We have an amazing collaborative. For the first time, we will be offering parent leadership training,” she said.

That training is scheduled to begin Jan. 26 and continue until March 30. She then introduced Edwards, who spoke about how Wethersfield and many other towns in the Hartford region are becoming more racially and culturally diverse.

He gave a multimedia presentation that emphasized approaching parents with optimism and treating them as an equal and important part of their child’s upbringing and schooling.

“Our brains are kind of funny. We put things in boxes,” Edwards said.

That may be efficient, but it is not always the best way to process information. He added that first impressions may

not always be accurate.

Edwards emphasized that it takes time to create partnerships. First, the participants need to establish a relationship, build trust and evaluate their respective assets.

“It’s a process. It doesn’t happen all at once. It requires a certain amount of tenacity,” he said. “Relationship building is a lot of work, but the return on investment is fantastic. If your heart’s not in it, you won’t do it well.”

Edwards also said it is important for participants to provide transformational leadership and not just a mountain of data. He calls that “informational dump.”

Parents play a crucial role in this process, he added. They can either set their children up for success or for failure.

WECC is funded by the town of Wethersfield, Board of Education, State Office of Early Childhood, Graustein Memorial Fund and Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The co-chairmen are Mary Kay Jensen and Kathleen Bagley. [WL](#)

To learn more, visit [wethersfield.k12.ct.us](http://wethersfield.k12.ct.us) and look for the link to WECC.

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# News roundup

## Lohman exhibit opens

Longtime resident Philip Lohman held a reception to mark the opening of his exhibition "Artwork" Nov. 3 at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center. The veteran graphic artist displayed a wide variety of his work including maps, cartoons, posters and other media.

He worked many years for the Hartford Courant and in retirement has continued to provide graphic art to such groups as town government, the Wethersfield Historical Society and the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum. Lohman is shown with his daughter Melissa.

## Squares for South Africa

The GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club sends crocheted or knitted squares to South Africa, where Afghans are completed for orphans living with AIDS. The 8-inch by 8-inch squares with a 36-inch tail are given to the Kascare organization, which forwards them to South Africa for completion.

Connecticut International Outreach Chairman Mary Hannifan heads up this project. Last year, the

local club won an award from the General Federation of Women's Clubs at its district meeting for the 1,875 squares collected for this effort.

## Health district turns 20

The Central Connecticut Health District is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The district serves Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield. It began as a district serving only the latter two towns.

In the two decades since its inception the number of people served has increased from 52,000 to 97,000. The district is governed by a 13-member board of health and has a staff of eight full-time and three part-time employees.

## Pitkin joins hall of fame

The late William Pitkin, who for many years served the town as its director of parks and recreation, was elected to the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association Hall of Fame. The Pitkin Community Center is named in his honor.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was a



Lohman exhibit opens

standout athlete at Trinity College, being awarded nine letters in football, basketball and baseball.

Pitkin launched his career in 1950 as the supervisor for play-

grounds and community centers of the South End for the city of Hartford. He became the first full-time director of parks and recreation in Wethersfield in 1960. He was con-

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sidered a leader in the field, developing new programs and facilities to make this community a desirable place to live and play.

As the town grew, so did the department. Park lands were developed, playgrounds, pools, courts and fields were built and programs were developed for all ages and all abilities. Two former school buildings were converted into a nature center and community center.

Pitkin turned down multiple offers to serve as town manager because parks and recreation was his true love. He was president of the CRPA in 1966, received its Honorary Life Membership Award and was named Kiwanis Man of the Year for 1981-1982.

### SDMS principal honored

Susan Czaplá, principal of Silas Deane Middle School, was selected to receive the William Cieslukowski Outstanding First-Year Principal of the Year Award from the Connecticut Association of Schools.

Her nomination was developed by a committee of SDMS staff with the desire to acknowledge her encouragement and focus on improving instructional practices to be innovative, forward-thinking and creative. The nomination credited her with a passion for student success, a community approach to supporting students, and revitalizing the energy and excitement in the building.

### Headache program receives grant

Dr. Brian Grosberg, medical director of the Hartford HealthCare Headache Program in Wethersfield and West Hartford, was awarded the first-ever Migraine Research Foundation "Impact" Award. This \$250,000 grant will fund leading-edge research on status migrainosus, a severe form of migraine that lasts longer than three days.

Grosberg shares the award with Harvard Medical School's Dr. Rami Burstein. The two internationally known headache special-



Pitkin joins hall of fame



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**Blessing the animals**

ists will use the award to study long-lasting migraines that have no clear cut, documented evidence-based treatment. Until now, many were treated with different drugs that clinicians choose using trial and error.

This becomes the first scientific study that will delve into patients and their specific characteristics so that science can better predict how

to treat and even prevent this kind of migraine. The goal is to create better, more effective and more personalized treatment for all status migrainosus patients.

### **Blessing the animals**


Corpus Christi School students and families celebrated the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi with a special blessing of the animals. Everyone

gathered in the school yard along with their dogs, cats, bunny rabbits and hamsters.

Principal Ann Sarpu brought her dog, a Havanese named Milo, to join in the fun, as did a few other staff members. Students were delighted that, as they changed classes or were on their way to recess, they got to stop by and catch up with their furry friends.

### **Keeney Kids Holiday History returns**


The Keeney Kids Holiday History program for grades 1-6 returns Dec. 27-28 at the Wethersfield Museum in the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main St. For more information contact the Wethersfield Historical Society at 860-529-7656 or [wethersfieldhistory.org](http://wethersfieldhistory.org). **WL**





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Cathy grew up in Wethersfield with her two sisters Christina and Cindy, where her family name holds notoriety. Her parents, Jim and Pegi Rossini, owned the Wethersfield Car Wash for many years and were very active in various organizations in town, including the Bud and Blossom Garden Club and Unico.

She resides in Newington now, where she lives with her husband Tom Lapierre and their two children Jay and Jackie. Tom has served over 30 years in the Newington Volunteer Fire Department and is now the assistant chief of the department.

Cathy and her family are avid skiers with their children being competitive racers for Mount Southington. Tom and Cathy are the co-presidents of the ski team's parents' association.

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*3 BR Col, thermopane windows,  
 screened-in porch and deck.  
 \$244,900*



*Well built 3 br brick ranch, 3  
 full baths, walkout LL, 2 car gar.  
 \$249,900*



*Adorable 3 BR Cape, sunporch,  
 deck & fenced yard.  
 \$162,500*



*Two for one! Adorable 6 rm Col  
 AND 3 story Barn w/kitchen & bath  
 \$349,900*



*Fantastic 5 rm ranch, 2 BR, 1.5 baths  
 on the main flr, fam rm w/FP, deck.  
 \$234,900*



*Spacious 9 rm home, 3.5 baths, C/A,  
 inground pl, gazebo, covered porch.  
 \$364,000*



*7 rm Col, 4 season sunrm,  
 2.5 ba, double cul-de-sac st.  
 \$274,900*



*Fabulous 7 rm, Col, remod kit, sun-  
 rm, screened porch, fenced yard.  
 \$257,900*



*One story! 3 bedroom, 2 bath,  
 C/Air, enclosed porch, C/Vac.  
 \$249,900*



*Great 6 rm, 3 BR ranch, wd flrs,  
 thermopane windows, FP, 2 car gar.  
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# December calendar

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**1 Holidays on Main**, 5-9 p.m., center of Old Wethersfield, 860-721-6200 or wethersfield-chamber.com

**Tour the Hurlbut-Dunham House**, 6-8 p.m., 212 Main St., 860-529-7656 or wethersfield-history.org

**2 Drop-in Playtime/Storytime**, 10 a.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2801 or wethersfieldlibrary.org, also Dec. 9, 16, 23 and 30

**3 Hungrytown in concert**, 2 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

**5 Excel Basics**, 6:30 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

**6 Time to Talk**, 7:30 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org, also Dec. 13, 20 and 27

**7 Wethersfield-Rocky Hill Professional Nurses Association**, 7 p.m., Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., 860-563-4150

**9 Night of Joy Christmas Concert**, 7 p.m., Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church, 511

Maple St., 860-563-8286 or wethefc.com, also 4 and 7 p.m. Dec. 10 and 4 p.m. Dec. 11

**10 150 Prospect Coffeehouse**, 6:30 p.m., Wethersfield United Methodist Church, 150 Prospect St., 860-614-5158 or tanjam@comcast.net

**12 Facebook Basics**, 6:30 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

**14 Madres Latinas**, 6 p.m., Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., madreslatinawethersfield@gmail.com

**16 Three Centuries of Christmas**, 5-8 p.m., Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum 211 Main St., 860-529-0612 or webb-deane-stevens.org, also Dec. 17

**27 GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club**, 6:30 p.m., Newington Senior & Disabled Center, 120 Cedar St., Newington, 860-666-4371

*Is your club, community organization, school or house of worship holding an event open to the general public? If so, please send us the details for inclusion in our calendar. Email your events to Mark Jahne at [mjahne@turleyct.com](mailto:mjahne@turleyct.com) or mail them to Turley CT Community Publications, 540 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070.*





# Slice of LIFE

photos by Lisa Brisson



The Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce held its 2nd Annual BBQ n' Beer event Nov. 3 at the Webb Barn. The fundraiser brought out lots of flannel plaid shirts and cowboy boots-wearing guests who enjoyed hot wings from Buffalo Wild Wings, mac and cheese from Max Bibb, and barbeque chicken and pork with all of the fixings from Black-Eyed Sally's. The feast was washed down with libations from Sammy's Buy Rite Liquors. Funds from the event will go toward next June's annual fireworks at Cove Park.



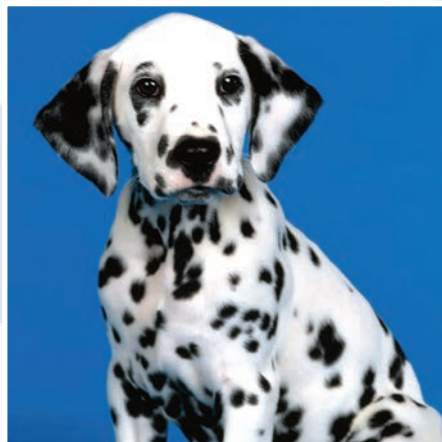
## Enjoying beer and barbecue

**1.** Plaid flannel shirts and cowboy boots were the costume of the evening. **2.** Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce members Annie Dillon, President Todd Lamore, event Chairmen Cristina Orsini Harris and Diane McAdams work as the kitchen crew to get the food out to the crowd gathered at the Webb Barn. **3.** D'Esopo Funeral Home was well represented by George D'Esopo, Ceil D'Esopo, Cristina Orsini Harris, Janet Klett, Lionel Lessard and Mike Klett. **4.** James and Melinda Robidoux enjoy some barbeque with Chris Marion. **5.** Christie and Jeff Morrisette, standing, shared their table with their daughter Nicole and her boyfriend T.J. DiFiore. **6.** Alana DiMarco, vice president of the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce, gets a hand from Colby Amadeo and Samantha Cusano, volunteers from D'Esopo Funeral Chapel. **7.** Chamber member Danielle Lutz dines with boyfriend Marc Pelton. **8.** The crowds line up to enjoy the meal. **9.** Dan Silver, standing next to his wife Polly Moon, had a blast with friends George Bartholomay and John Lubszewicz. **10.** Helen Kryczynski, Maureen and Ralph Horowitz and Sandy Whitaker, standing. **11.** Town Manager Jeff Bridges enjoys the fundraiser with his wife Karen. **12.** Ceil D'Esopo chats with Christina Lessard. **13.** Sanjay Shah of Sammy's Buy Rite Liquors and Chamber President Todd Lamore. **14.** Kelly and Mike Orsini toast George D'Esopo over a keg of beer. **15.** Leslie Civitello, executive director of the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce, lends a hand by distributing plates for the buffet dinner.

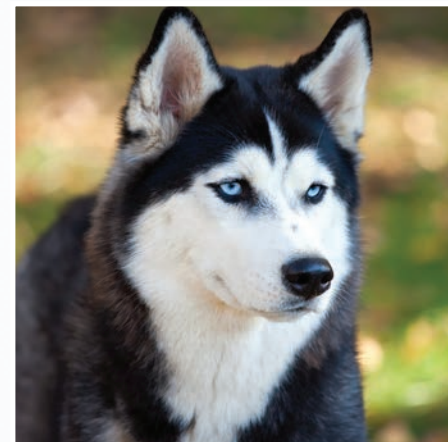








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# Editorial

## Giving thanks

**T**he holiday season is upon us, and not a moment too soon. With all the talk of politics and ISIS and the Zika virus and other unpleasant topics, we desperately need a break.

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and after that come Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year's and other winter holidays. These are the times that make our hearts warm, even as the weather grows colder.

As we prepare to consume mass amounts of turkey and trimmings, let us pause to think about the many areas of our lives for which we can give thanks.

For starters, the presidential election is finally over. Whether one is happy with the outcome or not, at least we do not have to suffer through endless hours of partisan politics and mind-numbing TV pundit analysis until the next presidential season kicks off.

Let's hope they give us at least a few weeks off before the mudslinging starts again.

We can certainly give thanks for the food we eat, for the air we breathe and water we drink. We can give thanks for family and extended family, even that one relative every-

one seems to have who is a bit of a jerk at times.

We can give thanks that we have the right to practice any religion we choose, or no religion at all. We can give thanks for the free speech that allows us to say almost anything we want, no matter how controversial.

We can give thanks for an American culture that offers all kinds of music, arts and other entertainment. There is no end to the variety of programming available on television or in theaters.

Anyone who is fortunate enough to have a job as we slowly work our way out of a deep economic recession should be happy for that. The same for anyone who is fortunate enough to have health insurance.

On the local level, we have dedicated volunteers who serve in thankless political office trying to do their best for the town. We have skilled and committed police officers and firefighters to protect our lives and homes.

It's certainly not perfect, but we live in a country that offers so many opportunities for people of all racial, ethnic, cultural and faith backgrounds. Let's all be grateful for that.

Turley CT Community Publications wishes a Happy Thanksgiving to all of our readers.



# wethersfield LIFE

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BY MARK DIXON  
WFSB METEOROLOGIST [AMS]



## Winter storm names...

If you've lived in Connecticut long enough, you'll remember Blizzard Larry, the Blizzard of '78. Or, perhaps the big ice storm of December 1973 named Felix. More recently, we had to deal with Storm Alfred in late October of 2011 when heavy, wet snow caused a record power outage in Connecticut. And, it was

Blizzard Charlotte that dumped up to 40" of snow on the state in 2013. Yes, people remember names, especially the ones that have been attached to Connecticut's biggest winter storms.

Naming winter storms is something unique to WFSB and dates back to the days of the Travelers Weather Service in 1971,

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In order for a storm to get a name, it has to meet certain criteria: we must expect at least 6" of

snow for much of the state, and/or ½" of ice accretion (that would be a significant ice storm).

When it comes to the list of names, we like a good theme – previously we've done "current day chart toppers" ...and "former First Ladies" ...this year, we're going with notable sports figures with ties to Connecticut. **WL**



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